

OPINION 1630

Helophorus obscurellus Poppius, 1907 (Insecta, Coleoptera): given precedence over *Helophorus fausti* Kuwert, 1887

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the specific name *obscurellus* Poppius, 1907, as published in the binomen *Helophorus* (*Trichelophorus*) *obscurellus*, is hereby given precedence over the specific name *fausti* Kuwert, 1887, as published in the binomen *Helophorus fausti*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

- (a) *obscurellus* Poppius, 1907, as published in the binomen *Helophorus* (*Trichelophorus*) *obscurellus*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *fausti* Kuwert, 1887, as published in the binomen *Helophorus fausti*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
- (b) *fausti* Kuwert, 1887, as published in the binomen *Helophorus fausti*, with the endorsement that it is not be given priority over *obscurellus* Poppius, 1907, as published in the binomen *Helophorus* (*Trichelophorus*) *obscurellus*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.

History of Case 2689

An application for *Helophorus obscurellus* Poppius, 1907 to be given precedence over the senior subjective synonym *H. fausti* Kuwert, 1887 was received from Dr R.B. Angus (*Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London, Egham, Surrey, U.K.*) on 11 November 1988. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 46: 176–178 (September 1989). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. No comments were received.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1990 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 46: 177. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1990 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 23: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Mahnert, Minelli, Mroczkowski, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 4: Heppell, Holthuis, Macpherson and Martins de Souza.

No vote was received from Halvorsen.

Ride would have preferred to suppress *Helophorus fausti*. Heppell commented: 'The author's account of the taxonomy relating to this case seems to me to be a good argument for rescuing *H. fausti* from obscurity. Nothing is stated to be wrong with the original publication or the extant type material. Coleopterists have been alerted to its current synonymy with *H. obscurellus* and the latter name remains available for possible use for a sibling species if recognised as such in the future. I am not convinced that the alleged inconvenience is sufficient in this case to warrant setting aside the provisions of the Code.' Martins de Souza commented that the application recognized

that *H. obscurellus* and *H. fausti* might eventually prove to represent distinct taxa, and that a decision in favour of the application could be temporary and was therefore unacceptable.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

fausti, *Helophorus*, Kuwert, 1887, *Wiener entomologische Zeitung*, 6: 165.

obscurellus, *Helophorus*, Poppius, 1907, *Ofversigt af Finska Vetenskaps-Societetens Förhandlingar*, 49: 3.